

## DEATH ON DENALI

arctic experience, climbing skill, past brushes with sickness in the mountains, equipment, hygiene, starting level of climb, rate of ascent, fall-back positions, willingness to assist others in trouble, and back-up aircraft can lessen loss of limb and life.

### Addendum

Some of the lessons of 1976 may have been learned. In 1977 there were 438 persons who essayed Denali and Mount Foraker. No one died. Five were rescued by air, but the National Park Service paid (\$3,369) for rescue of only two of these.

The service stationed rangers at Talkeetna, the principal staging community for climbs, and had rangers on the popular West Buttress route for periods during the season to offer advice and assistance. It was the impression of rangers that climbers were more careful in 1977 and that fewer tyros came than in 1976.

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## Straining of Stools for Gallstones

A simple way to find out whether or not a patient has gallstones is to strain stools. This is a very useful way of finding out. Now, how often in the two years since my paper on the subject came out in the *New England Journal of Medicine* have I been able to persuade anybody to strain stools? Once. Nevertheless, it is something that should be kept in mind.

—HOWARD M. SPIRO, MD, *New Haven*

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